



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

April 14, 2008

H.R. 5571

**A bill to extend for five years the program relating to waiver
of the foreign country residence requirement
with respect to international medical graduates**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on April 2, 2008

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 5571 would result in no significant net cost to the federal government. The bill would affect direct spending, but we estimate that any effects would be insignificant. Enacting the bill would not affect revenues.

H.R. 5571 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

Current law permits foreign students attending medical school in the United States to remain after graduation if they agree to work for at least three years in certain regions of the country considered to be underserved by physicians or if they accept employment with certain federal agencies. The program is scheduled to expire on June 1, 2008; H.R. 5571 would extend it through June 1, 2013.

Based on the participation of foreign medical students in the targeted regions or federal agencies in recent years, CBO expects that the bill's provisions would affect fewer than 2,000 persons annually. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) would collect fees to provide work permits for those individuals. Those fees are classified as offsetting receipts (a credit against direct spending). The department is authorized to spend such fees without further appropriation, so the net impact on DHS spending would be insignificant for each year.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Mark Grabowicz. This estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.